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SOURCE Soviet newspapers as indicated. (Information requested.)

CONSUMERS' GOODS PRODUCTION CRITICIZED

TARTU PLANT ADOPTS ECONOMY MEASURES -- Sovetskaya Estoniya, No 29, 5 Feb 49

The "Vyty" Plant in Tartu saved 72,000 rubles above plan in 1948. A meeting of technical engineers and Stakhanovite workers of the plant was held recently to discuss measures to improve further the profitable operation of the plant and speed up the production cycle of funds.

Until recently, the plant's foundry produced furnace doors by machine methods and frames for the doors by hand. As a result, there was a surplus of one and a shortage of the other. Production of frames will now be mechanized.

A compressor unit, to be put into operation in the foundry during the first quarter, will considerably speed up machining of castings.

The dispatching system will be reorganized to permit control of the production process.

Serious attention is being given to saving electric power. Highpower electric motors will be replaced, as much as possible, by less powerful motors. Six of the latter have recently been received. Replacement of electric motors will save from 1,500 to 2,000 rubles.

The plant is also making serious efforts to conserve coke and pig iron. Scrap metal will be used in production to help save several hundred kilograms of raw material in the first quarter.

Sovetskaya Estoniya, No 31, 8 Feb 49

The "Vyyt" Plant is able to produce other items, as well as agricultural machinery, but the Ministry of Local Industry, through which the plant has been receiving its raw materials, has not taken this into account. Chairman Saar of the Ministry of the Local Industry, Estonian SSR, has stated that recently he became cognizant of the situation at the plant and that measures have been adopted for improving the supply of pig iron, coke, and tools and for providing orders for new items.

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KIRGIZ CONSTRUCTS NEW PLANTS -- Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, No 27, 10 Feb 49

The Arzel imeni Pervyy May of the Invalids Cooperative Union has constructed a soda plant in the city of Osh. This plant will be considerably expanded. A plan has been drawn up for construction of a chemical combine. Several shops for producing shoe polish, dyes, and other items are to be built this year on the basis of existing plant machinery.

ALUMINUM DISHWARE PRODUCED -- Zarya Vostoka, No 28, 10 Feb 49

The consumers' goods shop of the Tbilisi Tool Plant is producing aluminum dishes. During 1948, 250,000 pieces of aluminum ware were produced. The dishes are in great demand in cities and villages of Georgian SSR. The output will be considerably increased this year.

ARMENIAN FORGES RECEIVE EQUIPMENT -- Kommunist, No 33, 10 Feb 49

A large number of drilling machines, forge furnaces, vises, and anvils are being dispatched to various sections of Armenian SSR to supply kolkhoz forges. During February more than 100 sets of equipment and tools will be sent.

Khabarovsk Consumers' Goods Criticized -- Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda, No 29, 5 Feb 49

The Tenth Session of the Khabarovsk City Soviet of Workers Deputies considered the problem of improving the quality and increasing the assortment of consumers' goods produced by city enterprises. Lamekhov, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Khabarovsk City Soviet, gave the leading report on this problem. Khabarovsk enterprises of local industry fulfilled the 1948 plan 128.6 percent; light industry enterprises, 108 percent; artels of the city industrial union, 106.8 percent; and artels of invalids cooperatives, 106.5 percent. Enterprises of light and local industry in the city realized 1,636,000 rubles in above-plan profits in 1948.

Consumers' goods enterprises and trade artels in the city, however, as a whole have not been completing their plans satisfactorily. Enterprises which are lagging include the leather plant, the "Koopremont" and "Kovvy Put" Artels, and others. The plan for production of hard leather goods, children's shoes, furniture, soap, cast-iron pots and pans, etc., is progressing particularly slowly. Assortment and quality of goods are still low. Some household articles, which could be produced in Khabarovsk, are imported from other parts of the country. Chief tasks of local and cooperative industry is to eliminate these defects and produce all goods needed by the local population.

CONSUMER UNION OFFICIALS EMBEZZLE FUNDS -- Bolshevik Altaya, No 2, 4 Jan 49

Consumer cooperatives in Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast have sold more than 137 million rubles worth of goods in a 9-month period. Turnover has increased considerably over last year and the number of stores and stalls has exceeded prewar level. The system, however, has many serious deficiencies. The oblast and rayon warehouses of the consumer-cooperative system have at times accumulated goods worth more than 50 million rubles, while the rural and rayon stores are out of necessary items.

In one case, a sum of more than 1,500,000 rubles was lost in a 10-month period and only one third of the sum was ever recovered. Huge embezzlements from rural consumer unions indicate the lack of responsibility on the part of directors of many rayon consumer unions and rural consumer societies, the inaction of the auditing commissions and the auditing group of the Oblast Consumers Union. The courts and the public prosecutors are also at fault in this matter for not making the proper prosecutions even after the evidence has been presented to them.

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